



Applicants : Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3732

Appln. No. : 10/659,303

Examiner:

Filed

: September 11, 2003

For

: VERTEBRA BODY PLATE FOR VERTEBRAL COLUMN FIXING SYSTEM

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following document to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 8-229052, published on September 10, 1996, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is discussed on page 1 of the specification of the instant application.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and cite the patent document. A copy of the above-noted document is attached and has been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate space on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of this document.

## P24195.A01

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted, Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

Bruce H. Bernsteir

Reg. No. 29,027

December 11, 2003 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 Roland Clarke Place Reston, VA 20191 (703) 716-1191

| Form PTO-1449 U.S. E                           |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            | J.S. D<br>Paten | epartment of<br>t and Trade | f Commerce                  | Atty. Docket No.<br>P24195        |                | Serial No.<br>10/659,303 |                               |          |  |
|--|------|-----------------|---|-------|----------|-------|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|--|
| IN   | IFO  |                 |   | В     | ΥA       | PPL   | JSU<br>ICA | KE S<br>NT      | TATEMEN                     | Applicant<br>Nobumasa SUZUK | olicant<br>oumasa SUZUKI et al.   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
| BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary) |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             | Filing Date<br>September 11, 2003 | 3              | Group<br>3732            |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 | ~                           | LEPEPENT I                  | DOCUMENTS                         | ·              |                          |                               |          |  |
| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL                            |      | DOCUMENT NUMBER |   |       |          |       |            |                 | DATE                        |                             | NAME                              | CLASS          | SUBCLASS                 | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          | L     |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       | <u> </u> |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          | L     |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   | <u>.</u>       |                          |                               |          |  |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS                       |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      | DOCUMENT NUMBER |   |       |          |       | MB         | ΞR              | DATE                        | cc                          | OUNTRY                            | CLASS          | SUBCLASS                 | TRANSLATION<br>YES NO         |          |  |
|  | 8    | -               | 2.  | 2     | 9        | 0     | 5          | 2               | 09/10/96                    | JAPAN                       |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             | ,                                 |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          | от    | HE         | R DO            | CUMENTS                     | (Including Au               | thor, Title, Date, Per            | tinent Pages,  | Etc.)                    |                               |          |  |
|  |      | 1               | English Language Abstract of JP 8-229052. |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
|  |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             |                                   |                |                          |                               |          |  |
| EXAMINER                                       |      |                 |   |       |          |       |            |                 |                             |                             | DATE CONSIDER                     | LED            |                          |                               |          |  |
| *EXAMINER: I                                   | niti | al i            | f cit                                     | ation | 1 COI    | iside | ered,      | whet            | ther or not c               | tation is in confo          | ormance with MPEP (               | 609; Draw line | through citation         | if not in con                 | formance |  |